

Senate Resolution 1019

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Hawkins of the 49th, Thomas of the 54th, Goggans of the 7th, Unterman of the 45th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Dialysis Patient Citizens and recognizing March 3, 2010, as Georgia Dialysis
2 Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, approximately 14,000 Georgia residents suffer from end stage renal disease,
4 also known as kidney failure, and rely on dialysis to function; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks ninth nationally in end stage renal disease incidence and
6 prevalence; and

7 WHEREAS, the most common causes of kidney disease in Georgia are uncontrolled high
8 blood pressure, at 38 percent, and complications from poorly managed diabetes, at 35
9 percent; and

10 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has experienced a 51 percent increase in new end stage
11 renal disease cases from 1997 to 2006 and a 58 percent increase in individuals living with
12 end stage renal disease in the same time period; and

13 WHEREAS, there are over 72,000 patients waiting for kidney transplants in the United
14 States; and

15 WHEREAS, kidney transplantation is severely limited due to a shortage of suitable donors,
16 organ transplant rejection, and the age and health of many end stage renal disease patients,
17 so most patients must remain on dialysis for the remainder of their lives; and

18 WHEREAS, access to medical care such as dialysis services, kidney transplantation, and
19 necessary medications for end stage renal disease patients is critical for saving lives and
20 enhancing patients' quality of life; and

21 WHEREAS, most end stage renal disease patients rely on medicare for their health care
22 needs, but it does not cover 100 percent of their costs of care, and approximately 2,000 end
23 stage renal disease patients in Georgia lack any type of secondary insurance coverage to help
24 meet the costs of care not covered by medicare; and

25 WHEREAS, providing access to Medigap secondary coverage for these patients will not only
26 significantly enhance quality of life, it will also substantially reduce health care expenditures
27 for the Georgia Medicaid program, taxpayers, and patients.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 commend Dialysis Patient Citizens for its responsible leadership and commitment to the
30 citizens of Georgia and recognize March 3, 2010, as Georgia Dialysis Day at the state
31 capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dialysis Patient Citizens.